



HOSPITALS WORK TO FIX SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

Florida's surging population growth has outpaced the number of doctors practicing in the state. Hospital leaders say that more money is needed to recruit and keep doctors here. An alliance of 14 hospitals, including Tampa General Hospital, above, works to fill in the gaps. **Local, 1B**

AR-15 raffle comes under criticism

Hernando County Commission Vice Chair Steve Champion donated the grand prize for the annual Toys for Tots drive, and it led to a bit of a dust-up. Champion said he was trying to inspire adults to give toys. **Local, 1B**

Buc spreading holiday cheer

Wide receiver Mike Evans throws a Christmas party for soaring fifth-graders at One Buc Place. **Martin Fennelly column, 1C**

Being different by design

When planning her Witness Tour, which arrives in Tampa on Friday, pop star Katy Perry turned to choreographers Ashley Evans and Antony Ginandjar, a.k.a. the Squared Division. **Etc., 2B**

Rosenstein mounts defense of Mueller

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein testifies before the House Judiciary Committee and expresses his confidence in special counsel Robert Mueller. **Nation, 2A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Warmer

8 a.m. 60° Noon 70° 4 p.m. 70° 8 p.m. 67°

10% chance of rain

More, back page of Sports

tampabay.com

New-look All Eyes

In our All Eyes photo gallery, you can find the day's top photo, the week's best images and collections of photos from news events at tampabay.com/photos.

INDEX

Astrology	4F	Crosswords	9A, F
Business	4B	Editorials	8A
Classified	F	Lottery	2A
Comics	3F	Puzzles	4F

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And a lightsaber will lead them

The Last Jedi, in theaters today, opens a holiday season of much-anticipated movies.

IN WEEKEND



Tampa Bay Times

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER



tampabay.com

★★★ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 | \$1

GOP, Trump make good on tax cuts



Abaca Press/TNS

President Donald Trump, surrounded by families who reportedly will benefit from the tax cuts, speaks Wednesday at the White House. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs," he said.

Republicans in Congress reach a deal, a win for the president.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Confident congressional Republicans forged an agreement Wednesday on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans — Donald Trump among them — and deliver the first major legislative accomplishment to the GOP president.

Middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts, though Trump and GOP leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class. The measure would scrap a major tax requirement of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, a step toward the ultimate Republican goal of unraveling the law.

"The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger," Trump said at the White House. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be



Associated Press

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, left, shakes hands with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, as House and Senate conferees announced their agreement to overhaul of the nation's tax laws.

permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules. In all, the bill would cut taxes by about \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years, adding billions to the nation's mounting debt.

The legislation, which is still

being finalized, would cut the top tax rate for the wealthy from 39.6 percent to 37 percent, slash the corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and allow homeowners to deduct interest only on the first \$750,000 of a new mortgage.

» See TAXES, 6A

\$1.5T

Total cost of tax plan over 10 years

35% to 21%

Change in corporate tax rate

39.6% to 37%

Change in top tax rate for families

\$10,000

Amount of income and property taxes Americans can deduct

Fed raises rates

The Federal Reserve gives the U.S. economy a vote of confidence for the third time this year. **Nation, 6A**



Florida Gov. Rick Scott's brief order doesn't apply to the Legislature, courts, cities or counties.

Scott targets sexual abuse

State agencies are told to have uniform procedures regarding harassment.

BY STEVE BOUSQUET
Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — State agencies must adopt uniform policies on sexual harassment and provide worker training for supervisors and new employees, Gov. Rick Scott announced Wednesday.

Scott said he issued an executive order to better protect state employees under his control and because of the cascade of reports of sexual harassment in politics, entertainment, media and business.

"It is absolutely disgusting to hear the numerous accounts of sexual harassment happening across the country," Scott said. "Everyone deserves to work in an environment that is safe and free from any form of harassment."

Scott's order requires all new agency employees to receive training addressing sexual harassment within 30 days of starting work and unspecified "additional training" for supervisors; the designation of specific agency employees who will receive complaints; and a "prompt review" of them.

"There's some pretty good stuff in here," said Rick Johnson, a Tallahassee lawyer who represents victims in sexual harassment cases. Calling Scott's order long overdue, he praised it for requiring a complaint to be handled by someone other than an employee's direct supervisor.

"The supervisor might be the harasser," Johnson said.

The timing of the order was questioned by Democrats, who are hoping to capitalize on the issue against Republicans.

"How is this just now happening in 2017?" said Gwen Graham, a Democratic candidate for governor in 2018, on Twitter. "How many state agencies don't have harassment complaint policies?"

» See SCOTT, 5A

Piles of prescriptions may be unnecessary

Pills for every problem, real or unknown, put many older people at risk, researchers say.

BY SANDRA G. BOODMAN
Kaiser Health News

Consider it America's other prescription drug epidemic.

For decades, experts have warned that older Americans are taking too many unnecessary drugs, often prescribed by multiple doctors, for dubious or unknown reasons. Researchers estimate that 25 percent of people ages 65 to 69 take at least five prescription drugs to treat chronic conditions, a figure that jumps to nearly 46 percent for those between 70 and 79. Doctors say it is not uncommon to encounter patients taking more

than 20 drugs to treat acid reflux, heart disease, depression, insomnia or other disorders.

Unlike the overuse of opioid painkillers, the polypharmacy problem has attracted little attention, even though its hazards are well documented. But some doctors are working to reverse the trend.

At least 15 percent of seniors seeking care annually from doctors or hospitals have suffered a medication problem; in half of these cases, the problem is believed to be potentially preventable. Studies have linked

» See PILLS, 5A



Getty Images

People pray together in Montgomery, Ala., at Tuesday night's election party for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore.

'Evangelical' black voters turned tide in Alabama

Their turnout and support of Jones were largely from equating Moore and Trump.

Washington Post

Nationally, the word "evangelical" has become in recent years nearly synonymous with "conservative Republican" and Alabama is one of the most evangelical states in the country. But in Alabama, there is a difference: black Christians.

While in many parts of the country, Christians who technically fit the dictionary definition of "evangelical" — believe in the Bible as the literal word

of God, believe in the essential importance of sharing one's faith, among other metrics — sometimes don't call themselves evangelical because the word has taken on such a partisan and even racial tone in recent years. And sometimes people who don't identify with the dictionary definition use the word because it fits their politics. The faith of many Christians of color is sometimes misunderstood or not counted because of chaos over the word "evangelical."

But in Alabama, black Christians use the label, and experts think faith organizers were able to motivate such voters by urging them to reclaim their own reli-

» See ALABAMA, 6A



Doug Jones



Roy Moore